Special Bonus Edition 2024

The truth must be told! A bonus edition is in order!!

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Culture Cringe

Murfreesboro's Provider of the Weird and Cool Since 2012

2024 Top 10 Albums

BEHOLD! THE CULTURE CRINGE 2024 TOP TEN ALBUMS SPECIAL EDITION ISSUE!

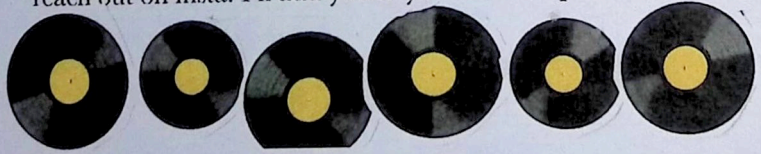
if you got ahold of one of these, consider yourself lucky (i guess) cos i didn't make too many of them! i mean, honestly. why would anyone CARE about what music albums peaked my interest this year? i basically did this as an exercise, an art project for myself, so maybe i'll find one of these tucked away in a dresser drawer years from now and get a kick out of it. BUT IN THE REAL WORLD maybe you'll find something of value here too!

when i listen to albums i don't really listen to lyrics **at all**. some think that **is super weird**. i have realized that there are songs i have listened to my **entire** life.....and i have **no idea** what they're singing about. i guess i need to start paying more attention to that stuff, **huh**.

Each album that I chose for this list has been chosen very carefully and I tried really hard to not be a critic and not to persuade others to check out the selections. I'm sure I failed several times with that. The biggest goal was to get across the mood or impact that the albums had on me personally. I also paired up the music with the colors that came across in my subconscious while listening, as well as a setting or certain situation in life that came to mind through the music. You'll see what I mean.

IT WAS HARD TO NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST 10 ALBUMS BECAUSE A TON OF GOOD STUFF CAME OUT THIS YEAR.

I hope you enjoy this as much as I enjoyed making it and if you have any recommendations for me, send them to culturecringemedia@gmail.com. Or. reach out on insta. I'll add you if you're a real person i promise. OK. **Onward!**

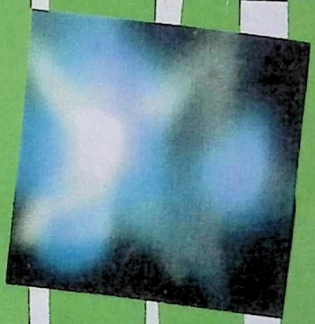


Your Pal,
Cringey

#10: MOLLY NILSSON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

This album comes in at number 10 for one main reason: it's the album that introduced me to the world of Molly Nilsson. I think I was listening to KEXP (or possibly WNXP) when I heard the song **The Beauty of the Duty**.....so of course I investigated into it. I learned that the album had just dropped digitally, which was cool. But what was cooler was the fact that I saw that Nilsson had a LARGE back catalogue of albums, all self released and DIY. So I dove in, and WOW! Amazing stuff and suddenly she became one of my new fave artists. Back to the album at hand..... **Un-American Activities** is a great listen. The song **Excalibur** is by far one of her best tracks ever in my opinion. If you decide to dive into her music, I'd start with one of her previous albums such as **Extreme** or **2020** - they have some serious earworms. But for real, all of her stuff is fantastic and I'm super glad I discovered it this year. This album brings forth images of the colors yellow and black, and a Blade Runner style high rise dwelling building.

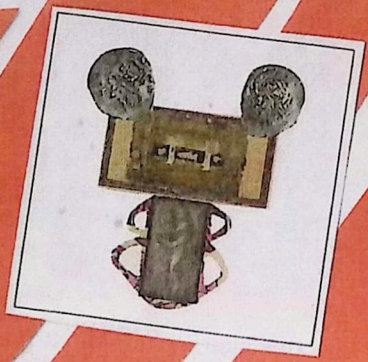
#9: FAZERDAZE SOFT POWER



One of my favorite things is when an artist starts their album off with the title track. It's almost like an overture or opening credits to a movie. Of course you gotta think of **The Beatles - Magical Mystery Tour** or **Sgt Pepper** as prime examples of that. Well New Zealand's **Fazerdaze** (the alias of Amelia Rahayu Murray) FINALLY released her second full length album after 2017's classic **Morningside**....and guess what? TITLE TRACK right off the bat. I can't stress enough how much I love it when artists do that. It suddenly makes me take the album more seriously. Does that make sense?? I dunno. Anyways. This album is quality. Great pop tunes that in my perfect world would be at the top of the charts. Do charts even matter anymore? NAH. This album brings forth images of the colors blue and green, and lush farm landscapes.

#8: HELLO MARY

EMITA OX



I've been a fan of **Hello Mary** for a couple of years, I loved their 2023 self titled album. This album kinda snuck up on me. Even though I "follow" the band on the socials, I didn't even know about this until the day it came out! Super surprise. I got it immediately and WOW. I wasn't prepared for how great this album is. It's got some serious bite - as evidenced by the opening track **Float**. What starts out as a dreamy sounding sound suddenly kicks you right in the gut. I was HERE FOR IT. The second track, **0%**, might just be one of my new favorite sludge-tunes in all it's "**Melvins** meets pissed off **Kim Gordon**" energy. The band is a power trio. I like that. The bass really shines on most every track, and I like that as well. I have no idea what they're singing about as I don't really listen to lyrics, so maybe someday I will listen to the words. But as far as the music goes - I am as far down as I can get. This album brings forth images of the colors brown and white, and the sidewalk outside of a hopping NYC indie scene club in 1996 with the smell of cloves heavy in the air.

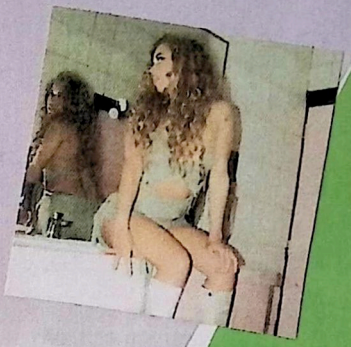
#7: METZ

UP ON GRAVITY HILL

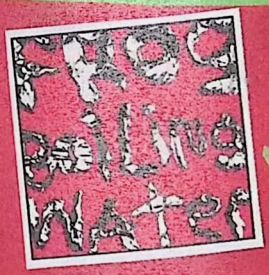
Here's the thing about **Metz**: I just learned about them THIS YEAR. Yeah, I know. They've been around for a bit and I feel dumb, cos I really REALLY like them. And of course, after releasing this album this year and doing a tour for it, they called it quits. Figures. BUT. That being said I'm glad that I did discover them - this album rules. I love the track **Glass Eye** in all it's **Verbena**-esque glory, as well as the closing track **Light Your Way Home** (which just HAS to be a nod to **Superdrag**...it has to be). I saw that **Metz** did a tour this past summer with **Gouge Away**....who ALMOST made my list with their brilliant album **Deep Sage**. Actually i'd put it at a solid number 11. But gosh, I would've loved to have seen that show! It could have been one of those instances where I go in blind, see **Metz**, get blown away, and have a new fave band. Ah, what could have been. This album brings forth images of the colors brown and black, and the interior of a Ford cargo van driving down the interstate near Philadelphia on slightly snowy roads and bald tires.

#6: NILUFER YANYA

MY METHOD ACTOR



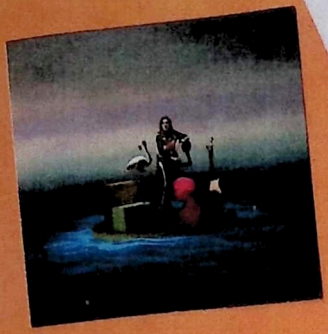
Another one of my most anticipated albums of the year! I'm such a fan of **Nilufer Yanya's** voice, songwriting, and guitar playing. So much so that I ended up with a test pressing of this album - how about that! And what an album it is. The choruses on the songs **Like I Say** and **Method Actor** are her best yet - talk about HUGE choruses. Here they are. As the album goes on the songs seem to have a more sad feel, especially the standout track **Call It Love**. There are no skips on this album. Full transparency: I'm pretty sure there are no skips on any of the albums on this list...just wanted to come clean. This album brings forth images of the colors grey and green, and a hot tub on the deck of a mountain resort cabin.



#5: DIIV

FROG IN BOILING WATER

I was only a casual fan of **DIIV** up until late last year when I saw them open for **Depeche Mode**. They won me over so when this album dropped this year I had a lot of interest...I wasn't expecting a full blown master-piece!! At times **DIIV** sounds like a shoegazey **Elliott Smith** backed by **My Bloody Valentine**. Ok, I have to admit....I HATE it when people lazily compare bands to other bands (and I know I've already done it on this list) but just humor me on that one. It's a good one right? This new album from **DIIV** has an urgency to it, at times it almost has a desperate tone. Sometimes the instruments sound just downright sad. Not saying this album is a downer by any means, it's just the vibe I get. It almost has the feel of a concept album, especially with their **SOUL-NET** internet campaign that they used to promote it. The song **Brown Paper Bag** is most certainly an instant shoe gaze classic. It's just warm, kinda makes you feel like you're wrapped up in a blanket. Good stuff! This album brings forth images of the colors red and green, and a messy yet equipped computer lab on a college campus in 2002.



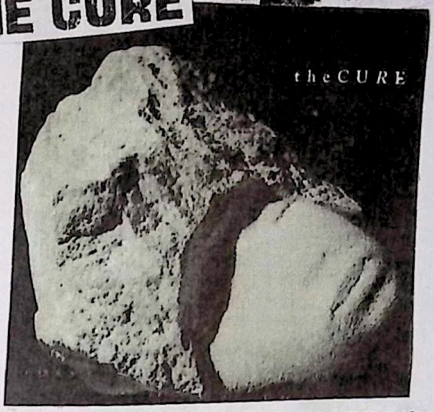
#4: KIM DEAL
NOBODY LOVES YOU MORE

Remember when I said how I love it when albums start with the title track? Well here we go again! It's seriously almost like this album starts with opening credits in a movie when **Nobody Loves You More** plays. I can almost see the visual "starring **Kim Deal**", and "written and performed by **Kim Deal**" in my mind while there are establishing visual shots of the journey we're about to go on. OK on with it. I LOVE this album. I'm not going to break down her past as a musician because we all know it (if you don't you now have homework). As a stand alone album, never minding everything that she's already done - it's a fantastic work. Her voice sounds better than ever. Her signature gnarly guitar tone shines on tracks like **Disobedience** and **Come Running**. **Are You Mine** is just heart breaking. It's all so good and an instant classic in my library. This album brings forth images on the colors orange and brown, and driving through the desert on a blistering hot day in a car with no AC, windows down.

#3: NEWDAD
MADRA

This album came out early in the year. I can't remember how I exactly heard about **NewDad**...I'm sure I heard them on the radio. It had to be the song **Sickly Sweet**, which led the charge on their arrival - it's an awesome shoegazey track reminiscent of **Lush** or of more recent relevance **Blushing** (here I go again with the compare thing). But **NewDad** at times has the choruses that almost have an 80s "**Eddie Money**" vibe while being surrounded by fuzzy guitars and punchy bass, especially like on the song **Dream of Me**. What a chorus! In case you can't tell, I love a good chorus. I guess it's my thing. I also like it when bands get to those in the first minute of a song, but we won't get in to that. LOVE **NewDad**. The track **Nightmares** is in my top three songs of the year.... Singer and songwriter **Julie Dawson** also released a solo album this year and it's also great. This album brings forth images of the colors blue and white, and walking through a mall with all your favorite stores while wearing headphones and being in your own world.

#2: THE CURE



SONGS OF A LOST WORLD

I know, I know.....You thought I'd have this a number 1 didn't you! I can't blame you....OK so here's the deal. This long awaited **Cure** album (16 years since their last) was worth the wait. It's good.... REAL good. I just don't know what to really say about it that hasn't been said. One thing is that the band previewed several of these songs on their tour last year, so we had an idea what was coming. Based off the vibe of what we heard, we knew it was going to be a darker album with some serious loss issues, heartbreak themes, aging themes. Basically we knew that it wasn't going to be an album like, say **Wild Mood Swings**. What we got was an "emotionally" heavy album that also packs a punch. Songs like **Warsong** and **Drone No Drone** are songs that everyone can't wait to hear live and in person. And of course, **Endsong** just might be one of their best songs EVER. Not kidding. **Robert Smith** has hinted that there is already another **Cure** album in the can and ready to go....which is crazy and exciting. But for real, if **Endsong** was the last song that the band ever released, it would be pretty poetic. NOT SAYING that I WANT that because I definitely do not....but it seriously feels like a farewell song. They will be touring next year and I have no real doubt that they won't be playing every song on this album - and I can say that would be a welcomed thing by the fans. I sorta wish they would just play this album in it's entirety, take a break, then come back out and do another set just like they did on their album release livestream. So back to why isn't it my number one album of the year. It might as well be and you know what, I pretty much hate putting things in order. Maybe I should just say that my #2 and #1 albums are a tie for first place. **The Cure** are #1 in my heart always anyways. This album brings forth images of the colors black and white, and will forever be linked to Halloween since it came out at midnight on Halloween night.

#1 PALOMINO BLOND

YOU FEEL IT TOO

I'm sure you're just as blindsided by this being my number one album of the year as I was when I first heard it. I had no idea who this band was until around mid-year. I was looking at the week's new releases (on a blog) and saw this listed with it's cover art. The cover art grabbed my attention - which sometimes happens even today. It is a lot like back "in the day" when you'd pop into a record store and blind-buy something just because it looked cool.

So anyways, this **looked cool**. I checked it out. My jaw dropped. If there was a scientific way to tic all the boxes for me and make an album directly aimed towards the things I dig....this did it.

I can't really explain WHY. The song **Machine** was the first track I heard. It starts off sounding a lot like an early 2000s modern rock track - the chorus kicks in (HUGE) and singer **Carli Acosta's** voice just soars. After hearing that one song, I ordered their album off Bandcamp. I might have even ordered it before the second verse. I was glad I did because the next track, **Automatic**, just might be one of the best "ballads" I've ever heard. Keep in mind, this is very specific to me as far as my tastes and I'm sure some might think I'm crazy throwing around claims like this. But it's true! This album is 100% all killer to me. I guess one thing I have learned lately is that I am weirdly nostalgic for that early 2000s modern rock production sound - even though I didn't care for it at the time. Sometimes you can find nostalgia in things that just make you feel like you're back in a time of your youth - for better or worse. For example, I recently bought an **Incubus** album. I HATED them back in the day, but I had discovered that hearing them reminded me of that time. Turns out it made me feel good. OK back to **Palomino Blond**... They haven't been widely celebrated and I totally get why. But the people who are fans are like me (i've learned) - they feel lucky and like they're part of a secret club. I listened to this album more than I've listened to any album in decades, and that is no joke. The song **Supergalore** might be in my top 10 songs of all time. This album brings forth images of the colors green and purple, and being bundled up in a favorite flannel outside in the fall at night standing around a bonfire with your pals, listening to music and taking in the vividness of the night sky.